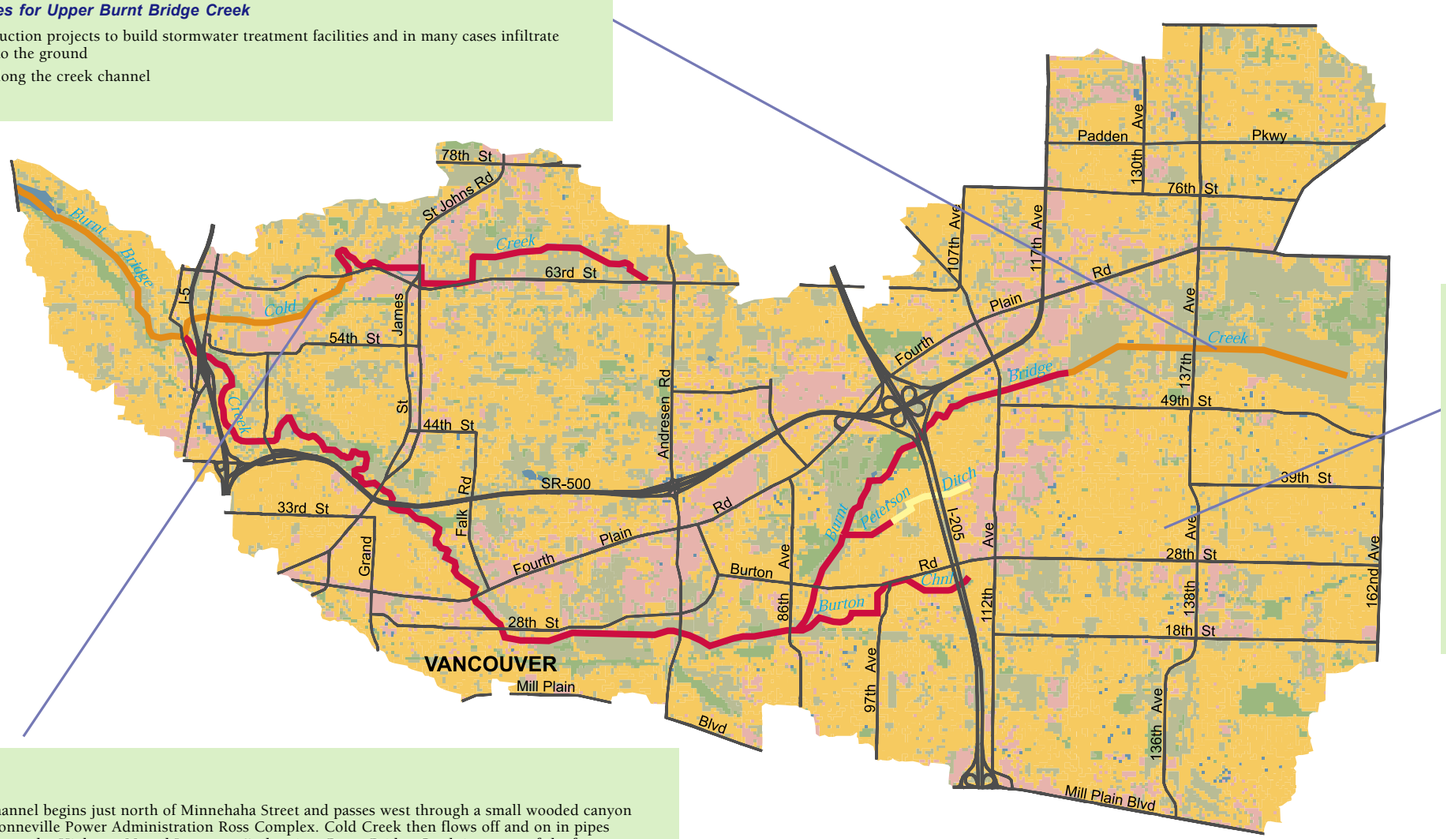
Upper Burnt Bridge Creek

Upper Burnt Bridge Creek is a ditch that runs through peat bog and marshlands that were drained many years ago to create farm fields and pastures. There are no tributary streams to upper Burnt Bridge Creek and there probably never were. Rain soaked into gravelly soil and made its way to the creek as groundwater seeps and springs. Now, some stormwater runoff is routed to the creek through pipes and ditches, but most is discharged into the ground through buried infiltration facilities.

Land uses are mainly residential and commercial, but there are extensive areas of fields along the creek. In these fields, the absence of trees to shade the creek causes severe temperature and dissolved oxygen problems during the summer. A streambed insect sample taken near Orchards had the lowest score measured in Clark County, indicating very poor habitat.

Management objectives for Upper Burnt Bridge Creek

- Requiring most construction projects to build stormwater treatment facilities and in many cases infiltrate treated stormwater into the ground
- Planting shade trees along the creek channel



Burnt Bridge Creek Watershed
Stream Health 2003

Stream Health Ratings	Description
Excellent	Pristine, superior, or unsurpassed condition; minimal human disturbance
Good	Healthy enough to support aquatic life and recreation
Fair	Degraded but may support aquatic life and recreation
Poor	Inferior health, poorly suited for aquatic life and recreation
Very Poor	Severely degraded health; unsuitable for aquatic life or recreation
Unassessed	No data collected
Probable	Predicted stream health

Land Cover Key

- Forest
- Grass/Shrubs
- Residential/ Recently cleared land
- Commercial/ Industrial

Burton Sink

The Burton Sink is an area where all rain historically "sank" into the gravelly soils. There are no streams. When the area was developed into residential and commercial uses, all stormwater was routed into underground disposal wells (drywells) and infiltration trenches. Much of this infiltrated stormwater recharges groundwater and ultimately feeds the springs along Highway 14 or discharges into Burnt Bridge Creek. Some of the infiltrated stormwater eventually seeps into deeper aquifers tapped by local water supply systems.

Management objectives for Burton Sink

- Protecting drinking water
- Requiring new construction to have stormwater treatment facilities, such as grassy swales, to remove most pollutants from stormwater before it is discharged into the ground
- Working with businesses and homeowners to develop programs that help protect groundwater

Cold Creek

The Cold Creek stream channel begins just north of Minnehaha Street and passes west through a small wooded canyon on the north side of the Bonneville Power Administration Ross Complex. Cold Creek then flows off and on in pipes through the Ross Complex, under Highway 99 and Interstate 5, then into Burnt Bridge Creek just west of the freeway.

Although Cold Creek's drainage area is mainly urban, there are open fields where seasonal wetlands have limited development. Almost one-third of Cold Creek's drainage area is grass and fields, with a tiny amount of forest. Upper Cold Creek is in poor to very poor heath, based on water chemistry and harmful bacteria, assessed in the mid-1990s.

Management objectives for Cold Creek

- Protecting public health
- Minimizing property damage from channel erosion and flooding
- Finding and removing fecal bacteria sources
- Educating businesses about preventing pollution
- Requiring new construction to have stormwater treatment facilities and detention ponds to limit stream bed erosion

An **infiltration facility** is designed to allow stormwater runoff to soak into the ground, commonly referred to as a percolation, to dispose of stormwater runoff.